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STAN LEE PRESENTS A TRIP...

INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE!

ROSEWOOD HOSPITAL, NEW YORK CITY.

JIM LEE PLOT | BRANDON CHOI SCRIPT | BRETT BOOTH PENCILS | TOM MCWEENEY INKS

WELL, I'LL LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE. BUT I'LL BE BACK AT ***THREE***, Mr. GRIMM. THERE'S STILL A FEW MORE ***SAMPLES*** I NEED TO COLLECT FROM YOU.

GEE, I'LL BE COUNTIN' THE ***MINUTES***.

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, OLD FRIEND. ONCE AGAIN YOU ***SAVED*** THE CITY. IF NOT FOR YOU AND ***THOR***, NONE OF US WOULD BE HERE TODAY.

REED'S RIGHT. WE WORKED TOGETHER AS A ***TEAM*** AND CAME THROUGH THE WORST OF IT.

THAT'S EASY FOR ***YOU*** TO SAY, SUZIE-Q! YOU'RE NOT THE ONE ***STUCK*** IN BED 'CAUSE O' ***RADIATION BURNS*** FROM A DING-DONG ***GAMMA CORE!***

COKE

JESSICA RUFFNER & WILDSTORM FX COLORS

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S DAVE LANPHEAR LETTERS

MIKE HEISLER EDITOR | BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF

SEE IRON MAN #6 — Miles.

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Aww, QUIT ***WHINING***, YA BIG BABY! WHO'S THE GUY WHO THREW OUT HIS SHOULDER TRYING TO ***ABSORB*** ALL THAT EXCESS ENERGY?

GRUMMBLE

BESIDES, YOU'RE LUCKY THEY ***ONLY*** BANDAGED YOUR ***HANDS***.

I WOULD'VE FIGURED THEY'D COVER THAT ***UGLY MUG*** OF YOURS, TOO, JUST SO YOU WOULDN'T SCARE THE OTHER PATIENTS. MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE TRIED TAKING THAT CORE APART WITH YOUR ***FACE!*** IT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN AN IMPROVEM --

JOHNNY!

OKAY, SORRY! I BETTER JUST GIVE THIS TO YOU BEFORE I GET INTO ANY ***MORE*** TROUBLE!

FOR ***ME?!***

THANKS, KID! AND DON'T WORRY, NO HARD FEELIN'S! COULD YA OPEN IT UP FER ME?

WELL, OKAY... HERE GOES.

UGH

DANG SHOULDER/

RRIP

CHECK IT *OUT*, AMIGO/ THE LATEST 64 BIT GAMEMASTER/

THIS BABY'LL KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED FOR *DAYS*/

I SHOULDA *EXPECTED* THIS.

NOW AM I SUPPOSED TO PLAY WITH SOMETHING THAT *SMALL* WITH MY MITTS ALL *WRAPPED UP* LIKE THIS?/

GEE, I THOUGHT IT WAS THE *THOUGHT* THAT COUNTED >SNICKER<

JOHNNY STORM --/

HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT, GUYS. I BOUGHT THE GAMEMASTER FOR *MYSELF*.

HERE'S YOUR *REAL* PRESENT, BLUE EYES. A *MONTECRISTO* NO. 1, JUST FOR YOU.

THE REAL McCOY?/

STRAIGHT FROM HAVANA, MY GRINGO FRIEND/

AWWW, KID... >SNIFF<

AHEM/ ACTUALLY, THAT WAS *MY* IDEA. *NICK FURY* TOLD ME YOU'D GROWN FOND OF THEM AFTER *STEALING* ONE OF *HIS* DURING OUR BATTLE WITH *GIGANTO*.

THANKS, SUZIE-Q/

SMOOCH

NOW GET SOME REST. I'LL CALL YOU LATER.

DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, REED?

DON'T WORRY, DARLING. HE'S GETTING THE *FINEST* CARE.

HE'LL *NEED* IT AFTER HIS CIGAR EXPLODES.

JOHNNY -- YOU DIDN'T!

EMERGENCY →
MATERNITY ←
ROOMS 109 - 2[illegible]
ROOMS
CAFETE
NURSES S

... SO THAT WAS FIVE DOORS DOWN ON THE LEFT, DOCTOR?

YES. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME *HELP*, MISS?

'NO, THANK YOU. I CAN MANAGE JUST FINE...'

HELLO? BEN?

IT'S ME -- ALICIA. *ALICIA MASTERS.*

ALICIA!?

HOLY *AUNT PETUNIA!*

UH, I MEAN... C'MON IN!

I BEEN MEANING TO CALL YOU! I NEVER GOT TO *EXPLAIN* WHY I MISSED OUR DINNER DATE --

IT'S OKAY. I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.

I HEARD ALL ABOUT *LATVERIA* ON THE NEWS. I WAS VERY *PROUD* OF YOU, BEN. YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS SAVED A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT DAY.

SO WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE ADMITTED HERE AT ROSEWOOD, I...

WELL, I JUST HAD TO COME DOWN AND VISIT YOU.

THANKS, ALICIA. I APPRECIATE THE CONCERN, BUT I'M FINE. REALLY.

LOOK ON THE *BRIGHT* SIDE! AT LEAST WE FINALLY GET TO SPEND SOME TIME ALONE TOGETHER...

MEANWHILE, UP ON THE ROOF...

THANKS FOR THE RIDE HOME, GUYS. FLYING OVER HERE I NEARLY GOT *MOBBED* AGAIN AND --

WHAT THE --? *ANOTHER* NEW SHIP!? REED, JUST HOW MANY OF THESE BABIES DO YOU HAVE?

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY --

-- THE BAXTER CORPORATION HAS BEEN VERY *GENEROUS* WITH ITS RESEARCH FUNDING.

I THINK THEY'RE JUST DOING IT FOR THE *PR!*

CHECK THIS OUT, WE'RE ALL OVER THE TABLOIDS...

ACCORDING TO THE *"DAILY GLOBE"*, NOW I'M DATING THAT HOLLYWOOD STARLET, JULIA ROBERTSON.

YEAH RIGHT! SHE WISHES!

WHOA! BUT LISTEN TO THIS, REED!

YOU WERE OFFERED A MILLION DOLLARS TO STAR IN SOME ADULT FLICK!

Hmm. AT LEAST THEN THEY'D KNOW WHY YOU'RE REALLY CALLED *Mr. FANTASTIC.*

...

VREEP VREEP VREEP VREEP VREEP

REED! WHAT IS THAT? SOME SORT OF ALARM?!

YES, MY DARLING. BUT DON'T WORRY...

"...IT JUST MEANS THAT MY *LATEST* EXPERIMENT IS NEARING COMPLETION."

I GUESS I SHOULD START FROM THE BEGINNING, JOHNNY. THIS IS ALL PART OF A PROJECT THAT I'VE BEEN WORKING ON SINCE WE FIRST SET UP SHOP IN THIS BUILDING.

BASICALLY, I HAVE A THEORY. I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS SOME KIND OF *LINK* BETWEEN US AND THE *SILVER SURFER*, WHOM WE RECENTLY MET IN LATVERIA.

AFTER OUR *ACCIDENT* IN SPACE... AND UPON FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE DATA FROM OUR SHIP'S BLACKBOX...

...I'VE CONCLUDED THAT WE *DEFINITELY* DERIVED OUR SUPER HUMAN POWERS FROM EXPOSURE TO COSMIC RAYS EMANATING FROM THE WORMHOLE THE SURFER CREATED TO COME TO OUR PLANET.

WOW! REED, I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS ROOM! WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

AND WHAT'S WITH THE *GIANT DOOR?*

WORMHOLE?

AN INTER-DIMENSIONAL PORTAL IF YOU WILL.

Huh? GUESS I NEED TO WATCH THOSE *NEXT GENERATION* RE-RUNS.

IMAGINE STANDING ON THE *OUTSIDE* OF A *BALL*. NOW IMAGINE THAT THE BALL REPRESENTS ALL OF *SPACE*. DON'T YOU SEE?

THAT'S HOW THE SURFER GETS FROM ONE POINT TO ANOTHER! RATHER THAN TRAVELING ON THE *SURFACE* OF THE BALL, HE LITERALLY CUTS *ACROSS* THE NEGATIVE INNER SPACE CONTAINED *WITHIN*.

FF #5 – Mike.

FF #5 – Mike again!

I BELIEVE THAT OUR POWERS ARE SOME-HOW DERIVED FROM ANOTHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

FROM A *PARALLEL* WORLD TO OUR OWN, SO TO SPEAK.

THIS INTER-DIMENSION... IS THERE ANYTHING *IN* IT?

THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO FIND OUT.

SO WHAT IS THIS PLACE CALLED AND HOW DO WE GET THERE?

I CALL IT...

...*THE NEGATIVE ZONE.*

I'VE GOT TO GO THERE...

...IF I'M TO FIND THE ANSWERS WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, REED?!

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE JUST GOING TO DASH OFF INTO A *DANGEROUS* UNCHARTED TERRITORY BY YOURSELF?!

THEN THINK AGAIN. WE'RE A *TEAM*. ALL OUR FATES ARE TIED TOGETHER... FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

IF WE ARE TO GO, THEN WE MUST *HURRY*. ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THE NEGATIVE ZONE IS IN QUANTUM ALIGNMENT WITH OUR OWN DIMENSION AT SPECIFIC INTERVALS.

IF WE *MISS* THIS POINT OF ENTRY, THERE IS NO TELLING WHEN THE *NEXT* OPPORTUNITY WILL OCCUR.

SHORTLY...

YO, REED! NOW HERE'S A *USEFUL* INVENTION THAT WE CAN MARKET. THE FOLKS AT HOME CAN GRAB THEIR HOT CHICKEN POT PIES WITH YOUR SPECIAL HI-TECH *FF OVEN MITTS!*

HEAVEN HELP ME BUT I THINK YOU'RE ACTUALLY SERIOUS WHEN YOU SAY THAT!

WELL, IT'S TIME TO PUT THOSE OVEN MITTS, AS YOU SO ELOQUENTLY PUT IT, TO GOOD USE, JOHNNY.

LET'S TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT WHAT IS COOKING IN THE OVEN, SO TO SPEAK.

TAK TAK TAK

BEHOLD/ THE AWESOME GLORY AND WONDER OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE!

IT... IT'S BEAUTIFUL, REED/

A UNIVERSE THAT SEEMS TO EXIST WITHIN OUR VERY OWN.

I SEE IT...

...BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

SO, ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS NEGATIVE ZONE CAN TAKE US TO THE OTHER SIDE OF OUR UNIVERSE?

THEORETICALLY, YES.

THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?/ LET'S HIT THE ROAD/

ALL SYSTEMS READ NOMINAL.

EXCELLENT. THEN IT'S TIME.

I'M COMMENCING FINAL COUNTDOWN NOW FROM —

5 4 3 2 1 --

ACTIVATING IGNITION SEQUENCE/

BLAST OFF/

KLIK

KACHUNG

WE HAVE MAIN THRUSTERS ON-LINE/

NOW RELEASING DOCKING CLAMPS/

WHRRRRRR

GOING THROTTLE UP...

...AND WE'RE ON OUR WAY/

WHROOOOSH

EVERYONE STRAP YOURSELVES IN. WE'RE ENCOUNTERING SOME SEVERE ***TURBULENCE*** UP AHEAD.

WHAT IS IT, REED?

I WAS AFRAID THERE MIGHT BE A ***DISTORTION AREA*** BETWEEN OUR REALITY AND THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

IT'S AN AREA OF ***INSTABILITY*** ALONG THE EVENT HORIZON WHERE MATTER AND ANTI-MATTER ARE IN FLUX AS THEY MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM ONE DIMENSIONAL PLANE TO ANOTHER.

YOU KNOW, THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY.

ALL OF THE SHIP'S SENSORS APPEAR TO HAVE GONE ***OFF-LINE***.

I WAS AFRAID THAT MIGHT HAPPEN. DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE, OUR INSTRUMENTATION WILL HAVE TO BE ***RECALIBRATED*** FOR THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT.

BUT DON'T WORRY, DARLING, THE COMPUTER SYSTEM WILL TAKE CARE OF THOSE TASKS BY ITSELF.

ORBOSH

SO REED, IS IT PRETTY SAFE TO SAY THAT THERE'S INTELLIGENT LIFE INSIDE THIS NEGATIVE ZONE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JOHNNY?

WELL, I THINK I SEE SOMEBODY OUT THERE

JUST SORT OF STANDING ON ONE OF THOSE NEARBY ASTEROIDS!

WHAT? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

... OR AT LEAST, HIGHLY IMPROBABLE.

TRY TELLING THAT TO THE GUY OUT THERE.

FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, HE DOESN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY ABOUT US BEING HERE.

WHAT'S THIS? A STRANGE SHIP EMERGES FROM THE DISTORTION AREA? NO DOUBT INVADERS FROM THE FOURTH DIMENSION WHO DARE TO TRESPASS UPON MY REALM!

I'LL QUICKLY SHOW THEM THE ERROR OF THEIR WAYS!

THEY'LL SOON SUFFER THE BLUDGEONING WRATH OF BLASTAAR, THE LIVING BOMBURST!

BOOM

PTOOM

I TOLD YOU HE DIDN'T LOOK FRIENDLY/

WE'VE BEEN HIT BY AN ENERGY BLAST/

THE OUTER HULL HAS BEEN RUPTURED/

ENOUGH, JOHNNY/ WHAT DO WE DO NOW, REED?

SO, YOU SEEK TO EVADE MY BLASTS?

THEN YOUR EFFORTS WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN/

NO/ HE'S FIRING AN ENTIRE VOLLEY OF BLASTS AT US THIS TIME/

THE SHIP CAN'T SUSTAIN ANOTHER DIRECT HIT/

EVERYONE/ INTO YOUR SPACESUITS/

PERISH AT THE HAND OF BLASTAAR/

YES, NOW MY VICTORY IS COMPLETE/

AND TO THE VICTOR, GOES THE SPOILS/

BOOM

CEASE THIS SENSELESS FRAY AT ONCE, BLASTAAR

EH?/ WHO -- WHO SAID THAT?

IF YOU INSIST UPON CONTINUING THIS COURSE OF ACTION, I SHALL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO NEUTRALIZE YOUR INTERVENTION.

YOU?/ I -- I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT YOUR KIND/

THIS DAY IS YOURS, BUT WE SHALL MEET AGAIN/

JOH - JOHNNY --

CAN'T -- BREATHE - FINISHED

NOT TODAY, JOHNNY STORM.

FOR FATE HAS DECREED THAT YOU THREE SOULS CANNOT [redacted] TODAY

A GREATER DESTINY LIES AHEAD FOR EACH OF YOU

SUDDENLY --

FASCINA --

WHA -- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?/ WHERE AM I?/

ONE MOMENT WE WERE UNDER ATTACK IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE AND NOW I'M --

WAIT! WHERE ARE SUE AND JOHNNY?!

WE CAME TO YOU FOR *HELP*, RICHARDS.

WE TRUSTED YOU --

WHO -- GOOD LORD/ THAT COSTUMED MAN HAS METALLIC CLAWS PROTRUDING FROM HIS VERY HANDS/

HE'S GOING TO ATTACK ME/ BUT WHY?/ WHAT HAVE I --

WAIT/ HE -- HE PASSED RIGHT THROUGH ME AS THOUGH I WERE SOME SORT OF... *GHOST!*

-- WE PUT *SHADOW CAT'S* LIFE IN YOUR HANDS/

SO YOU SAVE [illegible] BUB --

-- OR YOU DIE/

INCREDIBLE/ IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS INTENDED VICTIM...

... IS *ME!*

THOUGH HE BEARS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO ME, MY DOPPELGANGER APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT *OLDER.*

WOLVERINE, STOP!

LET HIM GO!

AND WHAT'S MORE, HIS COSTUME IS ALSO *DIFFERENT* FROM MY OWN.

BUT WHAT DO THESE *OTHER* PEOPLE WANT WITH HIM? EVIDENCE WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT THEY ARE ALSO META-HUMANOIDS.

COULD THEY BE DENIZENS OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE?

COULD I SOMEHOW BE LOOKING INTO THE *FUTURE?*

I'LL HAVE TO CHECK MY CHRONOLOG TO TRY AND VERIFY A TIME FRAME —

IMPOSSIBLE!

ACCORDING TO MY READINGS, THESE EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE... IN THE *PAST* —

— *BEFORE* THE FANTASTIC FOUR EVEN CAME INTO EXISTENCE IN OUR REALITY!

YET, FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, BEN IS IN THE FORM OF THE THING...

. WHILE JOHNNY POSSESSES THE POWERS OF THE HUMAN TORCH!

WHICH MEANS NONE OF THIS COULD BE TAKING PLACE IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE AT ALL—

BUT INSTEAD, IN SOME *ALTERNATE* DIMENSION!

EVIDENTLY, ON AN EARTH THAT IS INHABITED BY META-HUMANS OTHER THAN THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE AVENGERS!

KWUD

IS THIS ALTERNATE PLANE OF REALITY MERELY A PARALLEL EARTH OR SOMETHING *MORE*?

HOW ELSE CAN I EXPLAIN THIS SENSE OF.. DEJA VU?

NO. IT'S SOME-THING MORE THAN THAT. I *FEEL* AS THOUGH I'M SOME-HOW *COEXISTING* IN TWO DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

IT IS AS IF I AND THE OTHERS SEEM TO SHARE A COMMON CONSCIOUSNESS WITH OUR COUNTERPARTS IN THIS PARALLEL DIMENSION

BUT IF THIS IS INDEED A VISION FROM THE PAST...

... THEN WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR COUNTERPARTS IN THEIR FUTURE?

WHAT?! YOU CAN SEE ME?

BUT WHO --

YOU HAVE SEEN ENOUGH, REED RICHARDS.

IT IS TIME TO GO.

MEANWHILE.

BEN?! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

ONE MINUTE WE'RE ATTACKED AND NOW —

HEY, BEN! DIDN'T YOU *HEAR* ME?!

DO I LOOK ALL RIGHT NOW?

YEAH, YOU LOOK JUST FINE!

HOLY COW! IT'S AS THOUGH I'M NOT EVEN HERE!

HOLD IT! IT LOOKS LIKE BEN AND ALICIA ARE GETTING *MARRIED!*

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON...

... BUT THIS IS *GREAT!*

HEY, WE HAD A LOTTA GOOD TIMES, DIDN'T WE, KID?

Oh YES, BEN — LOVELY TIMES!

WAIT A SECOND! ALICIA'S GOING TO MARRY SOMEONE *ELSE!*

WELL... COME ON... LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!

POOR GUY.

BUT IF BEN *ISN'T* THE GROOM, THEN WHO COULD IT —

Oh NO! IT — IT'S ME UP AT THE ALTAR!

... AND FORSAKING ALL OTHERS, BE FAITHFUL TO EACH OTHER, AS LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LIVE?

WE WILL.

..I PRONOUNCE THAT THEY ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE.

THOSE WHOM GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER, LET NO ONE PUT ASUNDER!

IS THIS THE FUTURE THAT I'M SEEING?!

YOU SHALL UNDERSTAND IN TIME, JOHNNY STORM.

WHOP! *FLAME ON!*

BUT THERE IS STILL ONE MORE.

REED/ WHERE ARE YOU? JOHNNY?/

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? ONE MOMENT, I'M FLOATING HELPLESSLY IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE —

-- AND IN THE NEXT -- I'M BACK IN NEW YORK CITY?

I... I'M IN CENTRAL PARK/ IT'S SPRINGTIME. MY FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR.

THAT'S ODD/ THAT LITTLE BOY WALKING THIS WAY IS WEARING A FANTASTIC FOUR T-SHIRT. BUT WE HAVEN'T LICENSED ANY CLOTHING THAT I KNOW OF.

I WONDER WHERE HE COULD HAVE GOTTEN IT?

COME ALONG, FRANKLIN/

I'M COMING, Ms. HARKNESS.

FRANKLIN? THAT'S MY *FATHER'S* NAME.

IN FACT, THE BOY BEARS MORE THAN A PASSING RESEMBLANCE TO --

-- BUT THAT WOULD MEAN --

FRANKLIN RICHARDS/ YOU SIMPLY MUST LEARN TO PAY BETTER ATTENTION WHEN SPOKEN TO, YOUNG MAN.

AFTER ALL, WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP YOUR MOTHER WAITING/

THERE SHE IS, Ms. HARKNESS/

MAMA/ MAMA/

FRANKLIN...

...RICHARDS?/

BUT THAT'S --

IMPOSSIBLE/

FRANKLIN/ COME GIVE YOUR MOTHER A BIG HUG/
Mmmmm/ GOOD HUG/
SO YOU HAVE A FUN DAY WITH Ms. HARKNESS?
WE HAD THE BEST TIME, MAMA/
WE WENT TO THE ZOO AND SAW ALL THE ANIMALS/ AND WE ATE POPCORN AND COTTON CANDY --
-- BUT Ms. HARKNESS DIDN'T WANT ANY, SO I ATE HERS TOO/
I BET YOU DID/
BUT I STILL MISSED YOU A WHOLE BUNCH, MAMA/
SHE -- SHE'S ME/ OR SOME ALTERNATE VERSION OF MYSELF/
AND I'M... THE *MOTHER* OF THE LITTLE BOY/
BUT -- THAT'S JUST...
...NOT FAIR/
THE DOCTORS SAID...
WELL, I MISSED YOU TOO, PUMPKIN/
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO HOME AND SEE IF DADDY'S THERE WAITING FOR US?
YEAH/ LET'S GO SEE DADDY/
... I'D *NEVER* BE ABLE TO HAVE CHILDREN.
SO I NEVER DARE TO DREAM THAT I COULD HAVE A FAMILY OF MY OWN.
SO ALL I HAD LEFT... WAS MY *WORK*.
THERE IS THE LAST OF YOUR COMRADES.
SUE/
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DARLING?
NO, REED. I'M NOT.
TELL ME, *WHY* IS THIS HAPPENING TO US?

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?

I AM THE *WATCHER.*

AND I SEEK NOTHING FROM YOU, REED RICHARDS, OR YOUR COMPANIONS.

THEN WHAT HAS ALL OF THIS BEEN ABOUT? WHY HAVE YOU GONE OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SHOW US THESE THINGS?

I HAVE MERELY REVEALED TO YOU A WORLD THAT ALL OF YOU ALREADY KNOW EXISTS. ONE WHICH YOU MUST FIGHT TO RESTORE BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT.

FOR SHOULD YOU FAIL IN THIS ENDEAVOR, THE RESULTING CONSEQUENCES MAY WELL HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT UPON THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE/

BUT I HAVE ALREADY SAID TOO MUCH --

FAREWELL/

Huh?/ LOOK/ WE'RE BACK HOME/

ALMOST AS THOUGH EVERYTHING WE EXPERIENCED TODAY HAD NEVER HAPPENED AT ALL.

BUT MY CHRONOLOG INDICATES THAT WE DID IN FACT SPEND AT LEAST A FEW BRIEF MOMENTS INSIDE THE NEGATIVE ZONE/

SUE, RUN A COMPLETE DIAGNOSTIC CHECK ON THE NEGATIVE ZONE SENSOR ARRAY AND SEE IF IT HAS RECORDED ANY ACTIVITY ON THE OTHER SIDE...

REED, I THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS A LOT CLOSER TO HOME TO DEAL WITH.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JOHNNY?

TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF, EINSTEIN.

SUE?

Oh. REED.

PLEASE, HOLD ME.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY...

HERALD!

I AM HERE, MASTER.

THE SILVER SURFER HEEDS YOUR CALL.

WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING FROM TERRA PRIME?

IS THE PLANET READY FOR HARVEST?

BUT, MASTER, I SENSE THAT THIS PARTICULAR WORLD IS UNIQUE FROM ALL THE OTHERS YOU'VE HARVESTED IN THE PAST.

PERHAPS, IT SHOULD BEAR FURTHER OBSERVATION. ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF HOW CERTAIN BEINGS ON THIS PLANET RISKED THEIR LIVES IN ORDER TO --

NO. IT IS NOT YOUR DECISION TO MAKE. OR MINE ANY LONGER, AT THIS POINT IN TIME.

MY LIFE ENERGY HAS REACHED A DANGEROUSLY LOW LEVEL AND MUST BE REPLENISHED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

GALACTUS HUNGERS!

...

INDEED, MASTER.

THE GENETIC SEEDS YOU ONCE PLANTED THERE EONS AGO HAVE TAKEN HOLD AND ARE NOW THRIVING.

VERY WELL, MASTER.

NOW, LEAD THE WAY, MY HERALD.

I SHALL FOLLOW YOU IN MY STAR-SPHERE.

BUT MAKE HASTE...

...FOR MY TIME GROWS SHORT, EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

AS YOU COMMAND, GALACTUS!

I AM CALLED THE WATCHER.

IT IS MY SWORN DUTY TO OBSERVE THE PASSAGE OF EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE AS THEY UNFOLD...

...AND IN TURN RECORD THESE MOMENTS FOR ALL POSTERITY.

NEVER TO INTERVENE IN THESE MATTERS —

UNTIL NOW.

TO BE CONTINUED...